

Report on Minister of Steel's Russia Visit

On invitation of the Russian Minister of Energy, Mr. Nikolay Shulginov a delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of Steel, Shri. Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, visited Russia between 14th to 15th October 2021.

The objectives of the visit were - to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation for procurement of coking coal for use in steel sector which was approved by the Cabinet on 14 July 2021; to take forward the preliminary discussions which were initiated by the Ministry of steel with various Research Institutes in Russia dealing with metallurgy and to explore possibilities of collaboration in R&D in the iron and steel for procurement sector; to meet potential investors / steel majors in Russia in order to generate interest in the PLI Scheme for specialty steel for which the road show / webinar is being held on 25th October 2021

Four Indian companies, namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Tata Steel, Jindal Steel Works (JSW) and Jindal Steel Power Limited (JSPL) were part of the Indian delegation.

The delegation reached Moscow at about 2100 hrs on 13th October 2021 and was briefed regarding the Indo-Russian trade relations with special refence to steel and coking coal by India's Ambassador to Russia and his team.

A. Bilateral Meeting with Russia's Ministry of Energy:

Hon'ble Minister of Steel met Mr. Nikolay Shulginov, Minister of Energy, Russian Federation on the sidelines of Russian Energy Week. The two leaders discussed the opportunities of collaboration in the coking coal and steel sector.



B. Signing of MOU regarding collaboration in coking coal:

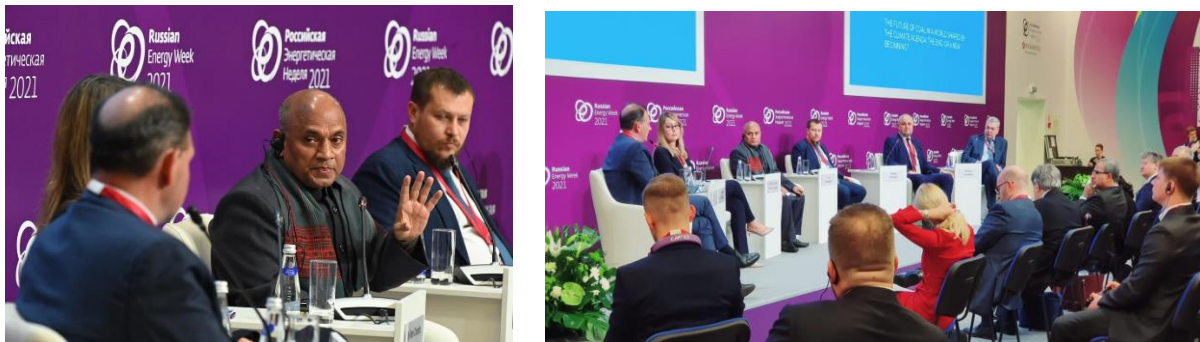
A landmark MOU regarding collaboration in coking coal sector was signed by the Minister of Steel, India and Minister of Energy Russia. The MoU will benefit the Indian steel sector by diversifying the sources of coking coal which may lead to reduction in input cost for the steel players due to long term commitment of supply of high-quality coking coal to India (upto 40 MT till 2035). This MoU also envisages implementation of joint projects/ commercial activities

in coking coal sector, including development of coking coal deposits and logistics development, sharing of experience in coking coal production management, technologies of mining, beneficiation, processing as well as training. In addition, the MoU envisages promoting research collaboration between the two countries.



C. Panel On Coal/Coking Coal session:

Hon'ble Minister participated in the Panel session on “**The Future of Coal in a World Shaped by Climate Agenda**” at the Russia Energy Week with Mr. Pavel Snickers, Deputy Minister of Energy, Russian Federation. Responding to questions on India’s commitments in reduction of carbon emissions and development of India’s steel industry, Minister stated that India is deeply committed to the Paris Agreement. In fact, India’s steel sector has already reduced carbon emissions even beyond commitment. Minister made it clear that coal-based energy continues to be the most affordable way to produce energy for the developing nations.



D. Meeting with NLMK:

Minister met the CEO of NLMK, Mr Grigory Fedorishin. Minister urged participation by NLMK in the PLI Scheme launched for specialty steel by India. NLMK is planning to invest around Rs 6800 Cr for making special electrical steel base in Aurangabad, Maharashtra for making electrical steel and could take full advantage of the PLI scheme. NLMK raised two issues for consideration of Government of India



E. Visit to I.P. Bardin Institute and Meeting with its Director:

Minister also led the Indian delegation to the eminent metallurgical Russian scientific Institute I.P.Bardin (Chermet) which is one of the oldest ferrous metallurgy scientific and technological centers in the Russian Federation since 1944. Since the institute does R&D for various metallurgical application our Steel players discussed a number of possible areas of collaboration ranging from Low Grade Iron Ore Beneficiation of Hematite Ore, Use of Natural Gas/ Coal Bed Methane/ Coke Oven gas injection in Blast Furnaces, Efficient injection of Hydrogen into the furnace shaft to reduce GHG emission, Dual Phase, TRIP (Transformation-Induced Plasticity)/ TWIP (Twinning-Induced Plasticity) steel, production of CRGO (Cold-Rolled Grain Oriented) Steel / Higher Grade CRNO (Cold Rolled Non-Oriented) Steel within the country . Collaboration to reduce carbon emissions, carbon capture and carbon utilization was specifically discussed by the Indian steel majors. The meeting was also attended by officials from the Ministry of Industry and trade of Russia.

